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U.S. Application No. 09/749,826 Art Unit 2631
Response to December 16, 2005 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:

a plurality of tuners and demodulators sending information signals to a media bus;
a system data bus coupled to the media bus and receiving the information signals;
a network bus coupled to the system data bus and receiving the information signals;

a mass storage device connected to the system data bus and storing the information signals;
~~the mass storage device adapted to receive and store a multimedia content item;~~

a data switch connected to the network bus, the data switch receiving the information signals and sending the information signals to one or more switch ports;

~~a processor, the processor coupled~~ connected ~~to the system data bus~~ mass storage device; and

~~a memory, the memory coupled to the system data bus processor, the memory storing a multimedia on demand data table and multimedia on demand instructions, the multimedia on demand data table including~~

~~a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier, the multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item stored on the mass storage device, and~~

~~a multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with the multimedia content item stored on the mass storage device;~~

~~the multimedia on demand instructions to be executed by the processor, the multimedia on demand instructions including instructions to~~

~~automatically receive the multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second, and~~

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~~send a multimedia on-demand usage message, the multimedia on-demand usage message based at least in part on the multimedia content usage indicator.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a video overlay processor coupled to the media bus and to the system data bus wherein the multimedia on-demand instructions include instructions to write the multimedia content item to the mass storage device.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising cipher/dechiper logic coupled to the plurality of tuners and demodulators and to the media bus wherein the instructions to receive the multimedia content at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate includes instructions to automatically receive the multimedia content at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a storage position identifier for each multimedia content item stored in the memory, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier received from a service provider and updated by the service provider ~~with each change in the multimedia on-demand data table.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a web server coupled to the system data bus, the web server providing access to content stored in the mass storage device wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information appliance for playback.

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6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface stored in the memory that provides access to content stored in the mass storage device wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is based at least in part on whether the multimedia content item associated with the multimedia content usage indicator was read from the mass storage device and sent to an information appliance for non-volatile recording of the multimedia content item.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface stored in the memory that provides access to information available from the data switch wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information appliance for recording to a non-volatile data storage medium.
8. (Cancel)
9. (Cancel)
10. (Cancel)
11. (Cancel)
12. (Cancel)
13. (Cancel)
14. (Cancel)
15. (Cancel)

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16. (Cancel)
17. (Currently Amended) A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:

a plurality of tuners and demodulators sending information signals to a media bus;
a system data bus coupled to the media bus and receiving the information signals;
a network bus coupled to the system data bus and receiving the information signals;

a mass storage device connected to the system data bus and storing the information signals, the mass storage device adapted to receive and store the information signals as a plurality of multimedia content items;

a processor, ~~the processor coupled~~ connected to the system data bus ~~mass storage device;~~ and

a memory, ~~the memory coupled~~ connected to the system data bus ~~processor,~~ the memory storing a multimedia-on-demand data table and multimedia-on-demand instructions,

the multimedia-on-demand data table including a plurality of multimedia content usage records, each multimedia content usage record adapted to include a multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with a multimedia content item stored on the mass storage device, and

the multimedia-on-demand instructions to be executed the processor, the multimedia-on-demand instructions including instructions to

automatically receive the plurality of multimedia content items at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second, and

send a multimedia-on-demand usage message, the multimedia-on-demand usage message to be based at least in part on the multimedia-on-demand data table.

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18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein each multimedia content usage record is adapted to include a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier, the multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items stored on the mass storage device.
19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein a multimedia content usage indicator is selected from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased indicator, and a content unused indicator.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising a storage position identifier for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier received from a service provider and updated by the service provider with each change in the multimedia-on-demand data table.
21. (Cancel)
22. (Cancel)
23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include instructions to:

 receive a portion of a multimedia content item, the portion of the multimedia content item being less than the entirety of the multimedia content item, the portion of the multimedia content item being received at a transmission rate, the transmission rate being less than the playback rate in bytes per second; and

 make a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia content item can begin prior to receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.

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24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the determination is based at least in part on the transmission rate and the playback rate.
25. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include instructions to receive the plurality of multimedia content items from a multimedia-on-demand service provider, the multimedia-on-demand service provider selected from the group consisting of a direct broadcast satellite television service provider, a cable television service provider, a terrestrial broadcast television service provider, a wireless broadband data service provider, and a wired broadband data service provider.

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26. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

receiving information signals at a plurality of tuners and demodulators;
sending the information signals to a media bus;
receiving the information signals over a system data bus coupled to the media bus;
receiving the information signals over a network bus coupled to the system data bus;
storing the information signals in a mass storage device connected to the system data;
receiving the information signals at a data switch connected to the network bus;
sending the information signals to one or more switch ports of the data switch;
processing the information signals at a processor connected to the system data bus;
storing the information signals in memory connected to the system data bus;
processing an instruction to automatically receive a first multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate in bytes per second;
storing the first multimedia content item;
modifying a data table to include a first multimedia content item identifier, the first multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the first multimedia content item; and
sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in part on the data table.

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27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
 receiving a multimedia content item usage instruction related to the first multimedia content item;
 directing usage of the first multimedia content item based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage instruction; and
 updating the data table based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage instruction.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the multimedia content item usage instruction is selected from the group consisting of an instruction to playback the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item viewing transaction, an instruction to export the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item purchase transaction, an instruction to store the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item deferred viewing transaction, and an instruction to allow use of the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item licensing transaction.
29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein updating the data table based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage instruction includes storing a first multimedia content item usage indicator, the first multimedia content item usage indicator associated with the first multimedia content identifier.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the multimedia usage report is based at least in part on the first multimedia content item usage indicator.
31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first multimedia content item usage indicator is selected from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased indicator, and a content licensed indicator.

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32. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
 automatically receiving a second multimedia content item, the second multimedia content item to replace the first multimedia content item;
 storing the second multimedia content item; and
 updating the data table to include a second multimedia content item identifier, the second multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the second multimedia content item.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein storing the second multimedia content item includes deleting the first multimedia content item.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising receiving a storage position identifier from a service provider for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier updated by the service provider with each change in the data table.
35. (Cancel)

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36. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:

receiving information signals at a plurality of tuners and demodulators;

sending the information signals to a media bus;

receiving the information signals over a system data bus coupled to the media bus;

receiving the information signals over a network bus coupled to the system data

bus;

storing the information signals in a mass storage device connected to the system

data;

receiving the information signals at a data switch connected to the network bus;

sending the information signals to one or more switch ports of the data switch;

processing the information signals at a processor connected to the system data

bus;

storing the information signals in memory connected to the system data bus;

automatically receiving a portion of a multimedia content item at a transmission rate, the portion of the multimedia content item being less than the entirety of the multimedia content item, the transmission rate being less than the playback rate of the multimedia content item in bytes per second;

storing the portion of the multimedia content item; and

making a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia content item can begin prior to the receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.

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37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
modifying a data table to include a multimedia content item identifier, the multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the multimedia content item; and
sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in part on the data table and
receiving a storage position identifier from a service provider for each multimedia content item, the storage position identifier specifying a logical storage position for the multimedia content item, the storage position identifier updated by the service provider with each change in the data table.
38. (Cancel)
39. (Cancel)
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41. (Cancel)
42. (Cancel)
43. (Cancel)
44. (Cancel)
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46. (Cancel)
47. (Cancel)
48. (Cancel)
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50. (Cancel)
51. (Cancel)
52. (Cancel)